



Dock Boards & Dock Plates

How to Select the Correct
Board or Plate for Your
Application



Dock Boards vs. Dock Plates



DOCK BOARDS

- Provide higher capacities
- Have curbs
- Lift loops or chains are used as a lifting device
- Primarily used for fork trucks
- Made of steel or aluminum



DOCK PLATES

- Have lower capacities
- Do not have curbs
- Typically used for pallet jacks, dollies or carts
- Nylon straps or chains are used as a lifting device
- Made of steel or aluminum

To select the proper product find out what equipment is being used



Once the equipment is determined,
the **capacity** can be calculated

$$\text{Weight} + \text{Load} \times 0.9 = \text{Capacity}$$

Example:



Forklift weighs

11,000 lbs.

+

Max Load

4,000 lbs.

X 0.9

Required Dock Board Capacity = 13,500 lbs.

Length:

Is determined by the maximum amount of height difference between the dock height and the floor height of the trailer(s) being serviced.



Example:

Truck height **54"** - Dock height **48"** = **+6"** max height difference

+6" is the max height difference

TABLE FOR DETERMINING DOCKBOARD LENGTH

FORK LIFT TRUCKS: 11° BEND GRADE (19%)

MAX HEIGHT DIFFERENCE (INCHES)	4	5	6	7.5	8.5	9.5	10.5	12	13	14	15	16
BOARD LENGTH (INCHES)	30	36	42	48	54	60	66	72	78	84	90	96

Lengths shown include 11" lip. If refrigerator trucks are used, must specify a 14" lip.

WALKIE TRUCKS / PALLET JACK: 8% BEND GRADE (14%)

MAX HEIGHT DIFFERENCE (INCHES)	3	3¾	4½	5½	6	7	8	8¾	9½	10½	11¼	12
BOARD LENGTH (INCHES)	30	36	42	48	54	60	66	72	78	84	90	96

Example: 6" max height difference = **a 42" long board for fork trucks would fit the application** (max grade of 19%).

If truck bed height is **LOWER** than dock height?

THERE ARE TWO OPTIONS:

**OPTION 1: The dock board* or dock plate must be used in reverse.
(meaning the board/plate will be in the truck and the
lip is on the dock)**

-OR-

OPTION 2: Raise the truck bed with wheel risers.



****If dockboard is used in reverse, chains must be added instead of lift loops.***

Average Floor Heights of Empty Semi-Trailers and Trucks

Over-the-Road (regular)	48" - 54"
Over-the-Road (heavy duty)	51" - 56"
Refrigerated	50" - 56"
Flat Bed	58" - 60"
City Delivery	42" - 50"
Container on Chassis	52" - 58"
Container on Moving Van	32" - 42"

Width:

Copperloy recommends a minimum of 60" wide dock boards for lift trucks and 54" wide dock boards for pallet truck use.



** Remember: Safety curbs take up to 6" to 8" of usable space depending on the board.*

Comparison of boards and plates

	Steel Treadplate	Aluminum treadplate	Steel Curbs	Aluminum Curbs	Lifting Loops (optional)	Lifting chains	Lifting Chains	Nylon Lift Straps	1k-14k capacity	10k-15k capacity	15k + capacity	11" lip length
Steel dock board with welded curbs (STR)	X		X		X	X					X	X
Aluminum dock board with bolt on steel curbs (ABC)		X	X			X				X		X
Steel dock plates (SR)	X						X		X			X
Aluminum dock board with welded aluminum curbs (ATR)		X		X		X				X		X
Aluminum dock plates (LP, TLP)		X						X	X			X



**Questions?
Please call
800-321-4968**

